

4-13-06

Tfw

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/817,546
Applicant : Euan Skinner Macleod et al.
Filed : April 2, 2004
Examiner :
Title : VACUUM CLEANER
Docket No. : 0978-0024
Confirmation No.: 2538

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"Express Mail" Mailing Label: EV 721992328 US

Date: April 12, 2006

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office Box Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Francisca M. A. Hubbard

Signature: Francisca M. A. Hubbard

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In connection with the examination of the above-identified application, the following references are called to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office.

U.S. Patent Documents

6,192,550 Hamada et al. 02/27/2001

Foreign Patents/Publications

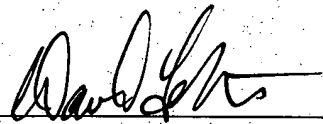
GB 2 372 433 Howes 08/28/2002

Other

European Search Report – Application Number EP 04 25 1832 in the Hague on February 3, 2005

Applicant encloses a PTO/SB/08A form identifying each of the above-listed references, and a copy of each foreign reference is also enclosed. In that regard, the European Search Report identifies EP 1023864 and indicates that U.S. 6,192,550 B1 is part of the "family" for such reference. Accordingly, applicant has cited to U.S. 6,192,550. This statement is provided in order to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97 et. seq. and this statement is not to be construed as a representation that these references are prior art or are material to the subject application or that no information exists which is more material than these references.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David Lesht, Reg. No. 30,472

Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 236-8500

Dated: April 12, 2006

APR 12 2006

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act
Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

Attorney Docket Number	0978-0024
------------------------	-----------

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/817.546
--------------------	------------

Filing Date	April 2, 2004
-------------	---------------

First Named Inventor	Macleod et al.
----------------------	----------------

Art Unit	1744
----------	------

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number	0978-0024
------------------------	-----------

PTO/SB/08a (07-05)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMR control number

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Country Code ³ "Number" ⁴ "Kind Code" ⁵ (if known)				
		GB 2 372 433	08/28/2002	Howes		

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

American LegalNet, Inc.
www.USCourtForms.com

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 no Persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMR control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/817,546
				Filing Date	April 2, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Macleod et al.
				Art Unit	1744
				Examiner Name	
				Attorney Docket Number	0978-0024
Sheet	2	of	2		

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.